

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 3-55. Please amend Claims 1 and 56. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. (Currently Amended) A method of testing for the remission stage of atopic dermatitis that is associated with a decrease in eosinophil cell number in a test subject having atopic dermatitis, said method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) measuring the expression level of the NOR-1 gene in the eosinophil cells of the test subject having atopic dermatitis; and
 - (b) comparing the expression level measured with ~~that~~ the expression level of the NOR-1 gene in the eosinophil cells of an the test subject during the exacerbation stage of atopic dermatitis ~~exacerbation stage subject~~,

wherein the remission stage of atopic dermatitis that is associated with a decrease in eosinophil cell number is indicated by an increase in the level of NOR-1 gene expression in the eosinophil cells of the test subject having atopic dermatitis as compared with that in the eosinophil cells of the test subject during the exacerbation stage of atopic dermatitis ~~in an atopic dermatitis exacerbation subject~~.
2. (Original) The testing method of claim 1, wherein the gene expression level is measured by cDNA PCR.
- 3.-55. (Canceled)
56. (Currently Amended) A method of assessing the effect of a therapy on ~~the atopic dermatitis of~~ an individual in the exacerbation stage of atopic dermatitis comprising:
 - (a) measuring the expression level of the NOR-1 gene in the eosinophil cells of the individual before and after the therapy; ~~and~~
 - (b) comparing the expression level of the NOR-1 gene measured before the therapy to that measured after the therapy~~[[,]]~~; and
 - (c) determining whether the test subject has had a decrease in eosinophil cell number after the therapy,

wherein an increase in the NOR-1 gene expression level and a decrease in eosinophil cell number after the therapy compared to that before the therapy indicate that the therapy has been effective ~~an improvement in the symptoms of the atopic dermatitis and a positive effect of said therapy on the atopic dermatitis of the individual.~~

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56 wherein the NOR-1 gene expression level is measured by cDNA PCR.